

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nishimura, T. et al.

Serial No.: Herewith

Group Art Unit: TBD

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Examiner: TBD

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF ACRYLIC ACID

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Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

(5) (Amended) A method for the production of a polyacrylic acid (salt), characterized by producing said polyacrylic acid (salt) by using the acrylic acid of high purity obtained at the step (g) set forth in claim 3.

Please add new claim 7 as follows:

(7) (New) A method for the production of a polyacrylic acid (salt), characterized by producing said polyacrylic acid (salt) by using the acrylic acid of high purity obtained at the step (g) set forth in claim 4.